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obtain through three centuries and lay the racial, social and political foundation for a discriminating and intelligent Commonwealth.

Untranslatable Spanish words are very properly used in the text, but as long as it is possible to be absolutely correct, there is no excuse for the total absence of accents from such words as *bohío*, *cédula*, *maravedí*, *clérigo*, *inéditos*, *colección*, *cámara*, *fundición*, and every other word requiring an accent. *Naburia* (on page 152) appears as *naboria* on 195. One is correct. *Maravedises* (174) is inaccurate. It is to be hoped that the volume which succeeds this, if there be one, may be written in the third person, and not in the first. Because it is written in English and gives a connected history of Cuba in the sixteenth century, this volume will be of use to the general reader and the classroom student.

NEWS NOTES

The annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association was held at Berkeley, California, on November 30 and December 1. At that meeting two papers of general interest to students of Spanish-American history were read. These papers were "A Forgotten Pioneer of American History—John Gilmary Shea," by Father Joseph Gleason, of Palo Alto, California, and "The Influence of the United States in the Opening of the Amazon River to the World's Commerce," by Professor Percy A. Martin, of Stanford University.

Officers of the association for the ensuing year are: President, Rev. Joseph Gleason, Palo Alto, California; Vice-President, Professor O. H. Richardson, University of Washington; Secretary-Treasurer, Professor W. A. Morris, University of California; Members of the Council, Professor E. M. Hume of the University of Idaho, R. C. Clark of the University of Oregon, Waldemar Westergaard of Pomona College, and Miss Edna Stone of the University High School, Oakland, California.

Mr. E. L. Doheny, Los Angeles multi-millionaire oil operator, has given \$100,000 as an endowment for the Doheny Research

Commission of the University of California. The purpose of this commission is to make a thoroughly scientific investigation of conditions—economic, social, and political—of Mexico at the present time. The results of the commission's investigations are to be published when completed.

The executive committee of the commission is composed of Professors Herbert E. Bolton and Bernard Moses of the University of California; Professor Chester Lloyd Jones of the University of Wisconsin; Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones of the Bureau of Education; Dr. Fred W. Powell, of New York, and Professor G. W. Scott of Occidental College. Other members of the commission are Dean F. H. Probert and Professors Herbert I. Priestley and Jessica Peixotto of the University of California; Professor Richard T. Ely of the University of Wisconsin; Dr. James A. Robertson of the Carnegie Institution; Professor Percy A. Martin of Stanford University; Professor Theodore Macklin of Kansas State Agricultural College; Professor W. W. Cumberland of the University of Minnesota; Dr. E. B. Christie of the Bureau of Ethnology; Dr. Arthur Young of Princeton University; Professor R. G. Cleland of Occidental College; Dr. H. E. Bard of the Pan-American Society, New York; Dr. H. M. Branch of New York and Mexico City; and Dr. E. C. Moore, President of the Los Angeles State Normal.

Judge Seth Shepard died at Washington, D. C., December 3, 1917. Judge Shepard secured the return to the State of the original manuscript declaration of the independence of Texas, which had found its way into the archives at Washington. He contributed the "Introduction" and an account of "The Siege and Fall of the Alamo" to "A Comprehensive History of Texas."

The Texas History Teachers' Bulletin, VI, No. 1 (November, 1917), prints ten letters written to Stephen F. Austin during 1821 and 1822 "which show the widespread interest in Austin's Colony in the United States and the motives of those who wished to emigrate."

Two letters from Frederick Law Olmsted, dated July 6 and 26, 1857, are printed in the *American Historical Review* (October, 1917). These letters, to quote the words of the editor, "Reveal

an attempt made in 1857 by the New England Emigrant Aid Society to enlist the aid of English cotton manufacturers in colonizing free laborers upon new land in the southwest of the United States."

"The Baptistry Window of the Mission of San José de Aguayo" is the title of an article by Harvey Partridge Smith in the *Western Architect* (November, 1917). It is illustrated. This window "is considered by connoisseurs to be the finest single bit of Spanish-Colonial ornamentation existing in America."

In the *New Yorker Staats-Zeitung*, September 11 to 21, 1917, appeared the following: "Die Deutschen in Texas während des Bürgerkrieges. Nach Aufzeichnungen von Richter A. Siemering, San Antonio im Jahre 1876."

"The mission as a frontier institution in the Spanish-American Colonies," by Dr. Herbert E. Bolton, appeared in the *American Historical Review* (October, 1917). It presents a summary of original researches into Spanish institutions in the Southwest that will mark an epoch in this field of study.

The centenary of the birth of Ernst Gustav Maetze was commemorated by his former pupils in unveiling a tablet to his memory at Oak Knoll Cemetery, Bellville, Texas, and an address at Millheim by W. A. Trenckmann, September 12, 1917. The address traced the life of Maetze and is printed in *Das Wochenblatt*, September 19.

"The assault upon the University of Texas" is dealt with by writers in *School and Society* (August 11 and September 1 and 29, 1917); *New Republic* (August 11, 1917); *The Outlook* (October 10, 1917); *Educational Review* (November, 1917), and *The Alcalde* (November, 1917).

William A. Eckhardt, a pioneer and prominent merchant of Yorktown, Texas, died at his home in that city October 29, 1917. A sketch of his life, written by Chas. F. Hoff, appeared in the *Yorktown News*, November 22.